3: Simutis S-4 (no date) 1942 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

THE LAND AND ITS RESOURCES

Lithuania is situated on the southeastern shore of the Baltic Sea between 53°35′ and 56°27′ north latitude and between 20°57.5′ and east longitude. The two other Baltic states, Latvia and Estonia, are farther north.

The surface of Lithuania is for the most part level, with none of her hills measuring more than 767 feet (234 meters) above sea level. In size, the nation has less than six percent of the territory of Europe, its area being 21,489 square miles. This figure, however, does not include all the territory of ethnographic Lithuania, which is about 33,937 square miles, divided as follows:

	SQ. MI.	SQ. KM.
Lithuania Major	20,389	52,820
Klaipeda (Memel) Territory	1,100	2,850
Lithuania up to March 22, 1939	21,489	55,670
Vilnius Region according to the Peace Treaty of July 12, 1920, with Russia	12,448	32,250
TOTAL	33,937	87,920

According to the Mutual Assistance Treaty between Lithuania and Soviet Russia, concluded October 10, 1939, part of the Vilnius region, about 2,569 square miles (6,656 square kilometers), was returned to Lithuania. However, all figures of economic activity used in this monograph refer to the territory of 21,489 square miles (55,670 square kilometers) that was under the sovereignty of Lithuania from January, 1923, to March 22, 1939.

Lithuania uses a larger percentage of its land for intensive agricultural purposes than its neighboring Baltic states. This may be seen from the comparative figures given in Table 4.

even the bishops. The high lords did not like him, for he was accustomed to saying the truth to their face, reproached them with their unjust treatment of their peasants, and spoke only Lithuanian with the latter. The /215/ priests were angry with him because of his odd interpretation of clerical freedom: he founded a family and made no secret of it. Many began to doubt whether he still had the right to be a priest, and even tried to force him to a written explanation. The people, however, the serfs, regarded him as one of their own, who had risen from their own class and was their advocate. They forgave him his weaknesses, and up to the present day he has remained unforgotten, although a hundred years have already passed since his death. This love of the people was based not only on the reports of the old people concerning his person,[1] but also on his songs, which became popular among the people. (22) In

22. Ibid., p. 75. Žilevičius writes concerning the importance of Strazdas for the Lithuanian church songs in his essay "Aušra ir lietuviškoji muzika" (The Aušra and Lithuanian Music), Židinys, 1935, Vol. XXI, p. 286. [133]

these songs, which are still sung today, lives a whole world--the peasant, his field, his household tasks, the farmhand and the maid, the lord and the priest (he never disparages them), the travelling Jewish merchant and the beggar. Often the poet chides his peasants for their vices, their drunkenness, hypocrisy, and laziness. Thus in the center of these songs, which all exhibit characteristics of the genuine folk songs, stands man himself with his joys and sorrows, his virtues and his faults. And as in the folk songs, all the images and figures here, too, are closely interwoven with nature.

1[Antanas Strazdas, poet, see cat.116, p. 245-46--Ann]

THE LITHUANIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

131 /3/The Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic is situated in the western part of the S.S.S.R.

The territory of the Lithuanian S.S.R. constitutes 65,200 square kilometers. In the south it borders on the Polish Democratic Republic. Inside the Soviet Union Lithuania's neighbors are: in the north, the Latvian S.S.R.; in the west and the southwest, the Kaliningrad Oblast', R.S.F.S.R. The northwestern part of the Lithuanian S.S.R. occupies the coast of the Baltic Sea.

133 The surface of the Lithuanian lands presents a hilly plain, cut through by rows of elevations, lakes, swamps, and woods. There are up to 1,743 lakes in the country. The majority of these are situated in the south. The most cut-up section of the district is found in the seacoast province, which stretches form the southwest to the northeast. The elevations in the west reach from 175 to 200 meters. This is the so-called Zhemaitis* elevation, or the

*Editor's Note--Names which did not occur in English reference books available to me occur in a form transliterated from Russia and are marked with an asterisk.

Telshiai Mountains.

In the area of the lower Nemunas there is a valley that merges into a similar valley along the lower course of the Neris (Viliya) and the Nevezys rivers. A strip of valley from 20 to 25 kilometers wide extends along the Baltic seacoast which forms in the south the shallow Kurshiu Marios (Courland Spit). The landscape in the east and in the south of the Republic is extremely varied. "Hills beyond hills, and beyond those-little hillocks," thus the poet Baranauskas describes his native land. /4/ In Sarasay mountains and hillocks are surrounded by woods, and they look into the lakes as if admiring themselves. Dzukiya competes for beauty with the Sarasay country. The same hills and woods are scattered amoung fields and lake islands, like rich nosegays. Here is the largest number of lakes.

133 Zhemaitya* (Zhmud*) is beautiful, with its forests, the
529 largest in Lithuania, and its Shatriya* and Medvagalis* mountain, steeped in legends. Zhemaitiya* ends at the Baltic Sea, with the ports of Klaipeda and Shventoiji, and with the sea resorts Palanga, Smelta, Yodkranta*, and Nida, which are known far beyond the Republic's frontiers. Palanga, with its pine woods and snow-white sand dunes is one of the finest resorts on the Baltic shore.

133 Neringa* presents a remarkable natural wonder. It is a long strip of earth stretching several tens of kilometers to the south, separating the Baltic Sea from Kurshiu Marios (Courland Spit). It is covered in places by young woodland or low pines, and in some places magnificent sand dunes rise, which around the hamlet of Nida are the highest in Europe. Lithuania's largest river is the Nemunas (Neman). It is navigable from the Alytus. Its most important tributaries inside Lithuania are the Neris (which in turn has its tributaries Shventoiya* and Nevezys), and also the Dubysa and the Sheshupe.

The lowest parts of Lithuania are swampy. There are especially many swamps in the Siauliai area and to the west from the middle of the Nemunas.

137 Wooded surface comprised before the Second World War, 19 percent of the whole Republic. About two-thirds of the woods are coniferous, and about one-third is deciduous. Among the coniferous varieties fir trees and pines predominate. Among the deciduous varieties the ash, the birch, the aspen, and, less often, the alder and oak predominate. The meadows are covered with dense, mellow grass. The natural pastures, and also fodder grass, are the basis for the development of animal husbandry.

132 Owing to the proximity of the sea, the climate is damp and mild. There are no severe winters and no dry winds. The average annual temperature is from plus 6.5° to 7° C.; the average temperature in /5/ January is from minus 2.5° to minus 4.7°; in July it is from plus 17° to 18.6°.

162 The population of Soviet Lithuania (according to the statistics of 1940) is 3,150,000. The bulk of the population consists of Lithuanians (80 per cent). In addition there are Russians, Poles, White Russians, Jews, and Latvians.

631 Administratively Soviet Lithuania is divided into 41 uyezds, 320 volosts, and 2,774 apilinks (selsoviets).

361 The capital of the Republic is Vilnius. The city of Vilnius was founded in the tenth century and has been the capital since 1323. It is situated at the junction of the rivers Vilnele (Vileika) and Neris, on the shores of both rivers.

The largest cities of the Republic are Kaunas, Klaipeda, Siauliai, Paniveshis.

135 In the Republic there are rich resources in water power, of peat and mineral construction material.

11: Scheffer O-4, 5 (ca. 1660) 1704
EP4 Lapps
Letts R84
Lithuanians R85

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to ſubmit under the Protection of *Sigiſmund Auguſtus* King of *Poland*, who made *Courland* a Dukedom, and gave it to *Goddard Kettler* of *Neſſelrath*, the laſt Maſter of the *Teutonick* Order in *Livonia*, to hold it as a Fief of the Crown of *Poland*. But *William* the youngeſt Son of this *Goddard*, who ſucceeded his elder Brother in the Government, was diſpoſſeſſed of his Dominions by *Sigiſmund* III. King of *Poland*, and lived in Exile till 1619, when he was reſtored to the Dukedom, whoſe Poſterity enjoy it to this Day.

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The *Poles* alſo remain to this Day poſſeſs'd of ſome inconſiderable Places of the *South* ſide of the River *Dwina* or *Dune*, among which *Dunaburgh* is the only Place worth taking notice of.

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The Dutchy of *Memel* is likewiſe a part of the *Southern Livonia*: Its Capital City bearing the ſame Name, is Situate upon, and encompaſs'd by, the River *Tanger*, which not far from thence exonerates it ſelf into the Sea, in the Gulph call'd the Lake of *Courland*, and affords a very Commodious Harbour to this little but pleaſant Town: Its Caſtle is very well Fortified; it was *An.* 1250. built by the Maſter of the Order of *Livonia*, and in 1328. ſold by them to the Maſter of the *Pruſſian* Knights. In the Truce made in the Year 1635, betwixt the *Poles* and *Swedes*, it was Stipulated, that the ſaid City and Dukedom ſhould be ſurrendred to the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, who ever ſince remains in poſſeſſion of it.

CHAP. II.

Of the Antient Inhabitants of Livonia, *and their Superſtitions and Cuſtoms.*

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[illegible]

IT is beyond all diſpute, that *Livonia* remain'd for a long time involved in the Darkneſs of Paganiſm and Idolatry, this Country being quite unknown in theſe Parts, till in the Year 1158, a Merchant Ship of *Bremen* (or as ſome will have it of *Lubeck*) being forced by a Tempeſt into the Gulph of *Riga*, made the firſt